(b) if so, what are the compelling reasons for allowing foreign airlines to collaborate with Indian Private Air Taxi Operators;

(c) whether some are pushing the projects and forcing Government to alter the Air Corporation Act; if so, the factual position thereof, as also regarding the Jet Air, mentioned in the news report; and

(d) the details of the fall out on Indian carriers, if the International airlines operate in domestic sectors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Air Corporation Act, 1953 has been repealed with effect from 1-3-1994. Foreign equity participation is permitted to enable the air taxi operators to have a larger capital base. M/s. Jet Air has been permitted to have a 40% foreign equity.

(d) Indian Airlines has lost 25 per cent market share due to Air Taxi Operaiton as a whole. It is not possible to estimate the specific impact on operations and revenues of Indian Airlines and Air India due to foreign equity participation at this stage.

Non-payment of contingency disbursement by Air India

6880. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Air India from its employees with regard to non-payment of contingency disbursement made during riots period in December|January, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action Air India has taken to remove such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contingency disbursement during riot periods in December, 1992 and January, 1993 at Bombay was made to employees commuting to their place of work beyond 1 Km. from their residence due to major disruption in city transport service. The representationists were staying within the radius of 1 Km. from their place of duty and therefore were not entitled to such payment.

Seniority for cadre of Traffic Assistants at Bombay

6881. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has two seniorities for the cadre of Traffic Assistants at Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Traffic Assistants at Delhi; Calcutta and Madras also have such different seniorities;

(c) whether management of Air India has received representations from its employees, including physically handicapped persons, for correcting such anomalies; and

(d) if so, what action Air India propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATON AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One list is meant for the Airport staff and the other for Booking Office and Space Management staff:

(c) and (d) The management of Air India received a representation from a physically handicapped employee for restoration of seniority lost on account of his voluntary transfer from Bombay Airport to Space Control Department. The matter is under examination.

Agitation for interim relief in Air India

6882. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether their was any agitation by employees of Air India for payment of interim relief;

(b) whether any settlement has been reached in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Memorandum of Settlement reached between the management of Air India and the employees' Union|Associaitons|Guilds envisage payment of interim relief ranging from Rs. 280|- to Rs. 1240|- with effect from 1-9-90. The amount of interim relief is treated as basic pay for the purpose of House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance and Provident Fund Contribution and will be adjusted against the final wage settlement/award of the National Industrial Tribunal.

Officers of Air India under suspension

6883. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of Air India belonging to officers and executive categories are under suspension, as on date;

(b) the names and details thereof; and

(c) whether the laid down procedure is being followed in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The following officers of Air India are under suspension:—

Name	Designation	Date from which suspended
1. Shri D.D. Pastakia	Inflight Supervisor	28-10-88
2. Shri R.B. Singh.	Security Officer	17-11-87
3. Shri F.B. Ingre	Security Officer	3-2-94
4. Shri A. Trindade	Security Officer	25-2-94
5. Shri J.A. Sidhwa	Dy. Director of Finance	30-10-92
6. Shri K. Raghunathan	Financial Controller	30-12-92

(c) Yes, Sir

Procurement of 29-Seater Aircraft

6884. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to procure smaller, 29-seater or other small aircraft, for the feeder and other routes with thin traffic, especially to replace the outdated aircraft of the Vayudoot;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and with which firms and for what specific type and model of air craft negotiations are on; and

(c) with what results, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At present there is no proposal for purchasing any small aircraft for Vayudoot.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.